



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Army Corps issues emergency declaration for Blue Marsh Lake, opens gates fully to pass record inflows

PHILADELPHIA (June 28, 2006): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued an Emergency Declaration for its Blue Marsh Lake project at 4:15 a.m. today due to high water levels. The lake is located on the Tulpehocken Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River, about four miles northwest of Reading, Pa.

The current pool level behind the dam is 306 feet, and outflow has been increased to 5,400 cubic feet per second (gates fully open) to minimize continued elevation of the reservoir. This outflow rate will continue as needed to pass inflows and maintain pool levels below the spillway. Estimated downstream river stage impact is approximately two additional feet along the Schuylkill River at Reading by 7 a.m.

These large releases of water from the dam are being made to control the lake level. The possibility exists that current inflow rates, if sustained, will raise the pool level to 307 feet within 2 to 3 hours, which could result in significantly increased outflow via the spillway. This would result in heavy flooding downstream of the dam along the Tulpehocken Creek and Schuylkill River in the vicinity and downstream of Reading. Residents in these downstream areas and in low lying areas upstream should be alert to possible flooding and prepare to evacuate.

The reservoir has been functioning as designed, storing significant volumes of water over the past several days and thus reducing downstream flows and delaying possible flooding. However, continued heavy rains (current inflow is approximately 11,000 cubic feet per second) have taken the reservoir to its flood storage capacity and brought about spillway flow conditions.